

REMARKS

This Amendment addresses the issues outstanding from the final Office Action dated November 19, 2007. Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration of this application, as amended.

By this Amendment, Applicants have amended independent Claims 7 and 14 to clarify the subject matter intended to be claimed. Claims 7, 8, and 14 have also been editorially revised for clarity. Claims 16 and 17 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, and Claims 1-6, 9, 13, and 15 were previously cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 18 and 19 have been added to provide more comprehensive protection for certain features. Thus, Claims 7, 8, 10-12, 14, 18 and 19 are currently pending.

In the Office Action, Claims 7, 10-12, 14, 16, and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,699,513 to Feigen et al. ("*Feigen*") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,473,406 to Coile et al. ("*Coile*"), further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,678,827 to Rothermel et al. ("*Rothermel*"). Claim 8 was also rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over *Feigen*, *Coile*, and *Rothermel* in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,845,068 to Winiger ("*Winiger*").

Without acceding to the outstanding rejections, Claim 7 now recites, *inter alia*, rerouting to the second port of the gateway machine, by ordering the network layer (CR) of the gateway machine, any message sent from the client network and addressed to the first port of the server machine, followed by deleting, by ordering the network layer (CR) of the gateway machine, any message sent from the client network to a third port located in the server machine regardless of a security level of said message sent to the third port. Claim 7 also now recites generating, in the gateway machine, a thread which establishes said first connection and a second connection at a second security level between the gateway machine and the third port, wherein said generating is performed in response to

the detection of the request addressed to the first port of the server application to establish said first connection, and said third port is configured to receive at least one message at a second security level from the gateway machine via said second connection. Support is provided, for example, at paragraphs [0042], [0046], and [0051]; and FIG. 5 of Applicants' published application.

It is apparent that the applied references do not teach or suggest at least the above features. For example, the Office Action acknowledges at pages 3 and 5 that the primary reference, *Feigen*, does not teach or suggest at least the feature of deleting any message to a third port located in the server machine regardless of a security level of said message. Secondary reference *Coile* apparently also does not teach or suggest the above-discussed features of Claim 7, nor does the Office Action rely on *Coile* for such teaching. However, the Office Action alleges that *Feigen's* and *Coile's* failure in this regard is cured by the teachings found in secondary reference *Rothermel*.

In contrast, however, the portion of *Rothermel* relied on in the Office Action apparently teaches blocking network information from passing to or from certain port numbers, but is apparently silent with regards to the features of the blocked port numbers. See *Rothermel*, col. 12, lines 63-64. Thus, *Rothermel* is not understood to teach or suggest deleting, by ordering the network layer (CR) of the gateway machine, any message sent from the client network to a third port located in the server machine regardless of a security level of said message sent to the third port, wherein the third port is configured to receive at least one message at a second security level from the gateway machine via said second connection, as presently recited in Claim 7. It is further noted that the cited portions of *Feigen* and *Coile* also fail to provide for the third port located in the server machine configured to receive at least one message at a second security level from the gateway machine via a second connection.

The secondary references also do not appear to teach or suggest the above-discussed features. For example, secondary reference *Winiger* teaches discarding a packet if the packet security classification is not the same as or higher than the security classification of a destination port. See *Winiger*, col. 6, lines 6-9. Thus, the cited portions of *Winiger* are not understood to teach or suggest rerouting to a second port of a gateway machine, by ordering a network layer (CR) of the gateway machine, any message sent and addressed to a first port of a server machine, followed by deleting, by ordering the network layer (CR) of the gateway machine, any message sent to a third port located in the server machine regardless of a security level of said message sent to the third port, as recited in Claim 7. The cited portions of *Winiger* also fail to provide for the third port located in the server machine configured to receive at least one message at a second security level from the gateway machine via a second connection.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that independent Claim 7 distinguishes patentably from the applied references.

Claim 14 has also been amended to recite, *inter alia*, activating, in the gateway machine, a secure application proxy that reroutes the messages addressed to the first port of the server application away from the first connection, in a way that is transparent to the client application, so as to establish a second connection at a second security level between a second port of the server application and the gateway machine, and that deletes, by ordering the network layer (CR) of the gateway machine, any message sent from the client network to the second port of the server application regardless of a security level of said message sent to the second port, wherein said second port is configured to receive at least one message at a second security level from the gateway machine via said second connection.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that independent Claim 14 also distinguishes patentably from the applied references for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to Claim 7.

The remaining claims are also believed to be patentable due to their respective dependence from independent Claims 7 and 14, as well as for the additional features recited in the remaining claims.

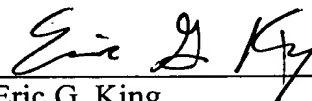
In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner believe that any further action is necessary to place this application in better form for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to Deposit Account No. 50-1165 (T2147-907461) any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 that may be required by this paper and to credit any overpayment to that Account. If any extension of time is required in connection with the filing of this paper and has not been separately requested, such extension is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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